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50 WORD BIO

British-Australian jazz vocalist Hetty Kate shares classics and curiosities, from Gershwin to Dameron, swing to bop. She has sung in 28 countries and recorded eleven albums. Her pure tone and impeccable timing, with a wink, leave audiences with a sense of shared joy that stays long after the music ends.

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150 WORD BIO

British-Australian jazz vocalist Hetty Kate brings a sparkling collection of classics and curiosities to each performance, from Gershwin to Dameron, swing to bop. Warm and masterful, she improvises with a light hand, sharing the story behind each song. Her timing is impeccable, both comedic and musical, allowing a song to be funny and moving, silly and sincere.

A career on the international stage has taken her to 28 countries, including the Sydney Opera House and festivals across Europe and Asia, and she has recorded eleven albums. James Morrison describes her as having “a stage presence only matched by the clarity of her voice,” and US critic Will Friedwald calls her “truly one of the best swing-style vocalists on the current scene.” Her concerts are known for a sense of shared joy that lingers long after the music ends.

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Hetty performs regularly at jazz clubs including Duc des Lombards in Paris, PizzaExpress Jazz Club in London, A-Trane in Berlin and Jazz Dock in Prague, and her festival appearances include Jazz à Vienne, the Prague Proms, the Sapporo International Jazz Festival and the New York Winter Jazz Festival. She has released eleven albums: Under Paris Skies reached #2 on the Disk Union Jazz Chart in Japan, and her latest, Spring, is the first volume of her Jazz in Four Seasons series, recorded in Prague. US critic Will Friedwald calls her “truly one of the best swing-style vocalists on the current scene.”

Born in Hampshire, England, she came up through Melbourne’s jazz scene, mentored by seasoned players, and went on to spend five years touring with Australian jazz luminary James Morrison, including as featured vocalist in his symphonic concert The A to Z of Jazz with eight orchestras. Its live recording won an Australian Jazz Bell Award. Now based in Paris, she has sung in 28 countries, from Santiago to Shanghai, and her concerts are known for a sense of shared joy that lingers long after the music ends.

LONG BIO

With impeccable timing, a raised eyebrow, and a natural, clarion tone, British-Australian jazz vocalist and bandleader Hetty Kate brings deep repertoire knowledge to her lyric-led interpretations of the American Songbook. She has released eleven albums; her trio album Under Paris Skies reached #2 on the Disk Union Jazz Chart in Japan, and her work has been recognised by critics across the US, UK, Europe, and Australasia. Her latest project, Jazz in Four Seasons, is a four-album series in which each volume is recorded in a different city with local musicians chosen to reflect both the season and the place. Volume 1, Spring, was recorded in Prague with five Czech musicians and features fresh modern jazz interpretations of works by Strayhorn, Ellington, Dameron, and Brubeck.

Hetty has sung in 28 countries, from Santiago to Shanghai. Her festival appearances include Jazz à Vienne, the Malta International Jazz Festival, Mithra Jazz à Liège, the Prague Proms, the Sapporo International Jazz Festival, the New York Winter Jazz Festival, the Melbourne International Jazz Festival and the Cavell Leitch New Zealand International Jazz Festival. She has performed at the Sydney Opera House, Smetana Hall in Prague, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center Shanghai, and performs regularly at jazz clubs including Duc des Lombards and Sunset-Sunside in Paris, PizzaExpress Jazz Club in London, A-Trane in Berlin, Jazz Dock in Prague and The Jazzlab in Melbourne.

Born in Hampshire, England, Hetty arrived in Melbourne as a teenager. Classical training gave her a foundation, but it was Melbourne's jazz scene that set her career in motion. Coming up the old fashioned way, Hetty was mentored by seasoned players, absorbing the tradition the way it once travelled: player to player, night after night. That grounding in swing still shapes her phrasing; US critic and author Will Friedwald called her "truly one of the best swing-style vocalists on the current scene." Drawn to the poetry of a lyric as much as to the music, Hetty treats each song as a story to be told. "It's not so much the era; it's the song, the message, the shaping of a feeling," she says. "Songs I've sung for years feel like an embrace from an old friend." With a repertoire of over five hundred songs, her concerts move easily between classics and curiosities from the American Songbook and the jazz canon.

Australian jazz luminary James Morrison invited Hetty to join his touring bands, and she performed with him for five years. Hetty was the featured vocalist in Morrison's symphonic concert The A to Z of Jazz, performed with eight orchestras across Europe, Asia and Oceania, and Morrison described her as having "a stage presence only matched by the clarity of her voice." The live recording of their performance with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra won an Australian Jazz Bell Award. On stage and screen, she played Ava Gardner in Eric McCusker's musical Ava at the End of the World and appeared as herself in Hervé Hadmar's France 2 series Romance.

Now based in Paris and touring internationally, Hetty works with local musicians wherever she plays, and has built a reputation for performances that create a sense of shared joy that lingers long after the music ends. As US critic Michael Steinman put it: "You might think of her as an intuitive jeweler who knows how to present even the smallest stone so that it gleams memorably." Her approach to performance is rooted in generosity: to the music, to her musicians, and to the audience.